FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT UNIT U.S. FOREST SERVICE DORAVILLE, GEORGIA

REPORT OF AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY

LAND DWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST, HITCHITI EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

STATE . GEORGIA?

AREA WITHIN SURVEY AREA: 267,000 ACRES

PERCENT COVERAGE: 25%

DATE: OCTOBER 3, 1978

AIRCRAFT: CESSNA 182

CREW: C.W. DULL, FOREST INSECT & DISEASE MANAGEMENT; B.I.HAMMOND, FOREST INSECT & DISEASE MANAGEMENT; KEITH WOOSTER, OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST

REPORT PREPARED BY, C. W. DULL

SURVEY OBJECTIVES: To DETECT THE PRESENCE OF FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST. SPECIAL EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON DELINEATING AREAS OF RED AND FADING PINES SUSPECTED TO CONTAIN SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE POPULATIONS.

SURVEY RESULTS

A TOTAL OF 52 SPOTS CONTAINING RED AND FADING PINES WAS OBSERVED (SEE ATTACHED MAPS FOR LOCATIONS). SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THESE SPOTS CONTAINED FIVE OR LESS TREES. SEVERAL LARGE SPOTS WERE OBSERVED ALONG THE OCMULGEE RIVER INCLUDING AN AREA CONTAINING 200 RED AND FADING TREES ON THE HITICHI EXPERIMENTAL FOREST. THIS SPOT WAS GROUND CHECKED BY FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL. OCONEE DISTRICT RANGER JOHN MOORE, AND HITICHI FOREST STATION PERSONNEL. AN ACTIVE SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE POPULATION WAS FOUND TO BE INFESTING LARGE PINES, 65 YEARS OLD, IN AN AREA DESIGNATED AS A NATURAL AREA.

CONCLUSIONS

THE RESULTS OF THIS AERIAL SURVEY INDICATE THAT SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE POPULATIONS ARE INCREASING ON AND ADJACENT TO THE OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST AND HITICHI EXPERIMENTAL FOREST. THE SIZE OF SPOTS CONTAINING RED AND FADING PINES HAS INCREASED SINCE THE PREVIOUS AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY.

A BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION TO DETERMINE THE POTENTIAL FOR AN OUTBREAK OF THE SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE DURING 1979 ON THE OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST AND HITICHI EXPERIMENTAL FOREST WILL BE CONDUCTED BY FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL. FIELD SURVEILLANCE BY NATIONAL FOREST PERSONNEL SHOULD CONTINUE.

FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT

FOREST INSECT & DISEASE MANAGEMENT UNIT, S&PF USFS - SOUTHEASTERN AREA

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